

# Texts of Gorbachev Decree and Lithuanian Reply

By The Associated Press

Following are the texts of President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's decree banning firearm sales in Lithuania and ordering residents to turn in their guns, and a rebuttal by the Lithuanian President, Vytautas Landsbergis. Mr. Gorbachev's statement was translated by The Associated Press from an official Tass dispatch; Mr. Landsbergis's statement was distributed in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, and translated by Lithuanian officials.

## GORBACHEV STATEMENT

The U.S.S.R. President's decree on Extra Measures to Protect the Rights of Soviet Citizens and the Sovereignty of the U.S.S.R. on the Territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R.

Contrary to the resolution adopted by the Congress of People's Deputies of March 15, the Lithuanian Parliament and Government continue passing bills violating the rights of the

Soviet citizens and the sovereignty of the Soviet Union.

In connection with this I decree:

1. The U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, the executive bodies and local councils of the Lithuanian S.S.R., the law-enforcement organs are to insure the observance of the federal Constitution and laws, and protect the rights and legitimate interests of the Soviet citizens living or staying in the Lithuanian S.S.R.

2. K.G.B. border forces are to take essential measures to tighten security on the Soviet border in the Lithuanian S.S.R., to halt all unlawful actions violating Soviet border legislation.

3. The federal Government's Resolution No. 646 of July 23, 1975, on the acquisition, accounting and keeping of hunting rifles is to be temporarily suspended, and the sale of hunting weapons is to be banned for the same period in the republic. Citizens living in the Lithuanian S.S.R. are within the next seven days to hand in all their weapons to the law-enforcement bodies for temporary keeping. The

U.S.S.R. Interior Ministry is to seize such weapons in cases of refusal to turn them in. The Defense Ministry is to receive from law-enforcement organs the weapons seized from citizens and insure their safekeeping.

4. The Foreign Ministry and the Interior Ministry are to tighten control over the issuance of entrance visas to foreigners and over the permission for foreigners to visit the Lithuanian S.S.R.

The Interior Ministry and the U.S.S.R. Procurator's Office are to take all essential measures to suppress violations by foreigners staying in the Lithuanian S.S.R. of the regulations concerning the stay of foreign nationals, including their deportation in keeping with the U.S.S.R. law on the legal status of foreign nationals in the U.S.S.R.

5. The decree becomes effective immediately after signing.

## LANDSBERGIS STATEMENT

This order, like any other adopted

by a foreign state that pretends to claim sovereignty over Lithuania, has no legal power. It can be enforced only through brutal, armed force and if the Soviet Union wishes to openly continue the aggression of 1940 against Lithuania. It's a pity that it continues the mistake of the Third Congress of Peoples Deputies.

It amounts to the claiming of nonexistent and unjustified sovereignty of a powerful country over a small and unarmed neighbor. The Soviet Union has recognized as null and void the secret protocol to the agreement between Stalin and Hitler, condemned the policy of ultimatums and violation of international law including the annexation of Lithuania, but now once again is not able to give up the prize and restore justice.

The ghost of Stalinism is walking in the Kremlin and the shadow of it lies far to the west. Tomorrow will show if the world, which greets Lithuania and her desire for freedom, will approve. We'll meet tomorrow, serene and united as we were before facing previous threats.